

# Thanks,

on rouge  
rings Gonzales Daise  
New Caney Orange Poi  
Port Allen Vidor Zachary  
Nelson Coal Lewis C  
Conroe Corri  
Yette Lake Cha  
merville Sour

on rouge  
rings Gonzales Daise  
New Caney Orange Poi  
Port Allen Vidor Zachary  
Nelson Coal Lewis C  
Conroe Corri  
Yette Lake Cha  
merville Sour

ta Nederriana New  
nie Woodville Port  
alson Gas & Oil Nel  
church Point Clevel  
Jennings Kountze  
t Neches Silsbee  
odlands Neches Station  
llow Glen River Bend  
Crystal Beach Dayton  
Madisonville N  
Sulphur  
Louisiar

## PLAIN TALKS

November 1984



# MAIL BOX

## THE COVER

GSU included a thank you note in last April's utility bills to customers who had established a good credit record by paying their bills on time. Many responded with a note of their own, expressing their feelings about Gulf States, its service and its people. Some of these responses may be found beginning on page 10.

Charles McManus  
Dayton, Texas

Charlie,

Just a note of thanks for a service you are probably not even aware of. The embarrassing part of this is, I'm not even sure I know the man's name. If I recall it correctly, it is Dave Douglas and he is one of your servicemen. A long time ago he gave me his home number and said if we were in a bad spot for quick service to give him a call and since he lived in close, maybe he could get us going more quickly.

A couple of weeks ago the telephone company had some trouble with their cable down towards our transmitter and we went off the air. I rushed out to see if there was anything I could do at the transmitter and only minutes later here he came driving up. He told me he realized we were off the air and if it was a Gulf States problem, he wanted to help.

Thank you for men like that.  
Sincerely,  
Bill Buchanan  
President/General Manager  
KPXW

**Editor's Note:** Dave Douglas is a serviceman-1st class in Dayton, Texas.

Don Perio  
Port Arthur, Texas

Dear Mr. Perio,

I wish to call to your attention the outstanding performance by one of your employees, Mrs. Penny Bolyard.

Today, Aug. 9, 1984, I had occasion to call your office to report a payment that was made on July 9, 1984, which was never credited to my account. I had been trying unsuccessfully for two weeks to clear this matter up. With the help of Vicki McNeel in the Nederland Gulf States office it was my good fortune to reach Mrs. Bolyard. She immediately exhibited considerable competence and concern in helping me deal with the problem. I am rather ashamed to admit that I was almost in a frothing rage when she first took the call; yet Mrs. Bolyard from the very beginning was able to identify the focus of the anger and assist greatly in the process of my coping with it. She was both a mediator and advisor. She listened patiently and courteously while I vented, then intervened to sort out the pertinent data and address the issues at hand. Needless to say I am more than pleased with the results. I hope that there is some way in which her noteworthy capabilities may be officially recognized by your organization.

In closing please permit me to add that it is for these reasons among others, that I would commend people like Mrs. Bolyard, Mrs. McNeel, and yourself for keeping the spirit of humanity alive.

Sincerely,  
Charlesetta Cheatham

**Editor's Note:** Penny Bolyard is a customer contact clerk in the Port Arthur office. Vicki McNeel is a local office clerk in the Mid-County office.

## PLAIN TALKS

Volume 63  
November 1984

Number 10

Published for employees and retirees of Gulf States Utilities Company. Address all communications to PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (409) 838-6631.

### Executive Editor:

Betty Gavora

### Co-Editors:

Susan Huff Gilley

T. J. Reyes

### Correspondents:

Dona Austin

Michael Bergeron

Ronnie Bordelon

Barbara Broussard

Ella Brown

Myra Castello

Susan Choate

Betty Dickschat

Betty Dowell

Andy Dreher

Bonnie Duval

Donna Fancher

Charlotte Gautreau

Lisa Gibson

Rhonda Haskins

Connie Herford

Les Jones

Lynda Kapalski

Helen Kennedy

Clint Lilley

Debra Patin

Edith Patterson

Carol Payne

Myra Ponthier

Kitty Prouse

Casey Richert

Mike Rodgers

Concetta Rollins

Greg Russell

D. W. Rutherford

Carol Sharp

Sue Simon

Sheila Soileau

Laurie Tenner

Monica Thomas

David Thornhill

Jean Tinsley

Delores West

Nina Wiley

Angela Wilks

Dianna Winkelmann

Robby Zeringue

Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.



# **CONTENTS**

## **PLAIN TALKS**

### **Features:**

<b>On the air for GSU</b>	<b>5</b>
New theme "Ask Us How We Can Help" features employees	
<b>"Vampires" visit Nelson Coal</b>	<b>6</b>
Mobile blood bank collects 41 units of blood	
<b>Turning rice into energy</b>	<b>7</b>
Agrilectric burns rice hulls in co-generation project	
<b>Taking a shine to solar power</b>	<b>8</b>
GSU, LSU shed light on passive solar homes	
<b>Thanks, GSU!</b>	<b>10</b>
Customers respond to recent bill insert	
<b>Safety Fair and Family Fun Day held</b>	<b>15</b>
Port Arthur Division throws annual bash	
<b>Historical marker placed at GSU substation</b>	<b>19</b>
Travis Street structure contributed to early community growth	

### **Departments**

<b>4</b>	<b>News Briefs</b> — Reports of company events
<b>12</b>	<b>Inside GSU</b> — Babies, birthdays
<b>16</b>	<b>On the Move</b> — Listing of recent job changes
<b>17</b>	<b>Service Awards</b> — Recognition of employees
<b>18</b>	<b>Retiree Update</b> — Retirement parties and fishing



# NEWS BRIEFS

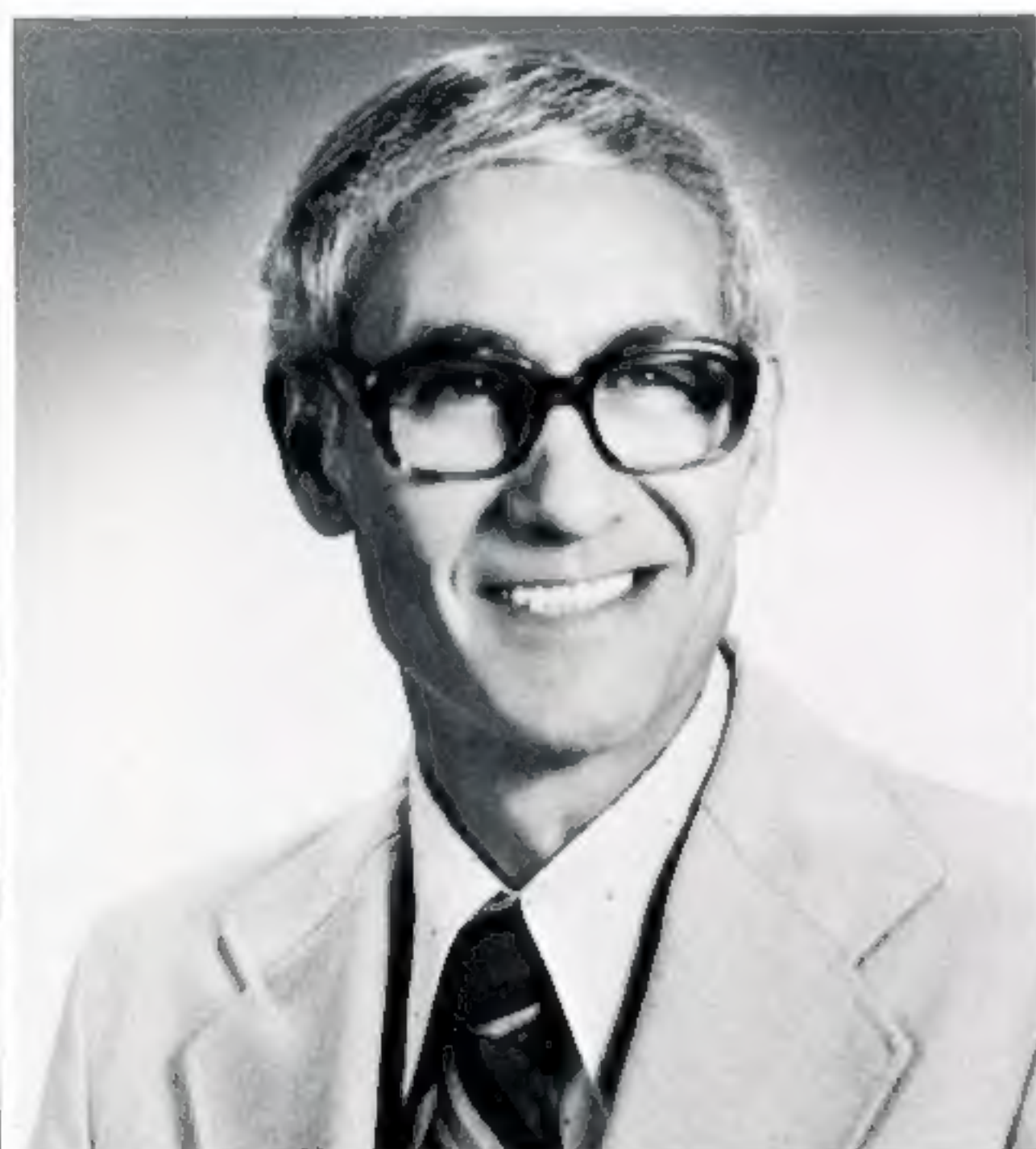


Tom Clark sifts through paperwork after his return from the University of Oklahoma.

## Program to aid economic development

Tom Clark completed the first part of a three-year Economic Development Institute course held at the University of Oklahoma.

Clark, who is an area development coordinator in the Port Arthur Division, will use the training to help the local area recover from the depressed oil industry by developing new areas of business. Clark is a 21-year veteran of Gulf States.



Dewey Lytle

## Lytle active in community groups

Dewey Lytle has been elected to serve a second year as a member of the Safety Council of Greater Baton Rouge. This group

promotes accident prevention and safety education in both industry and the private sector. The group was active in obtaining recent DWI legislation and was recognized by the National Safety Council for increasing seat belt and child safety seat usage.

In addition, Lytle was elected president of the American Public Works Association. This group is active in community improvement projects and furthering the development of the engineering profession.

Lytle, who is operating superintendent-electric in the Baton Rouge Division, has been employed at GSU since 1959.



Thomas Ashley, right, at the SGA management development course.

## Ashley attends SGA course

Thomas W. Ashley Sr. participated in the Southern Gas Association Level II Management Development course held at Baylor University. The course was structured to aid middle management personnel perform their jobs more effectively and prepare them for greater responsibility.

Topics covered included management systems and processes, planning tools and techniques, and leadership. Instructors for the course were from Baylor's Hankamer School of Business. In addition, Taylor G. Holland Jr., president and CEO of the Mississippi Valley Gas Company and chairman of the Southern Gas

Association board of directors, spoke to the group.

Ashley, who is an assistant general supervisor of corrosion in the Baton Rouge Gas Department, has been with GSU for 24 years.



Glenn Haines

## GSUer honored by Air Patrol

Glenn Haines, consumer service representative-senior in Beaumont, will be presented with the Gill Robb Wilson Award, the highest honor offered by the Civil Air Patrol. Haines, who holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the CAP, was singled out for his years of service, hours of study and devotion.

## Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during September 1984 covering employee deductions and company contributions through August 1984 included the purchase of 51,488 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$527,752.00. The average cost per share was \$10.25.

The trustee also deposited \$293,126.40 in savings with First City National Bank of Beaumont and \$25,611.88 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.



# On the air for GSU

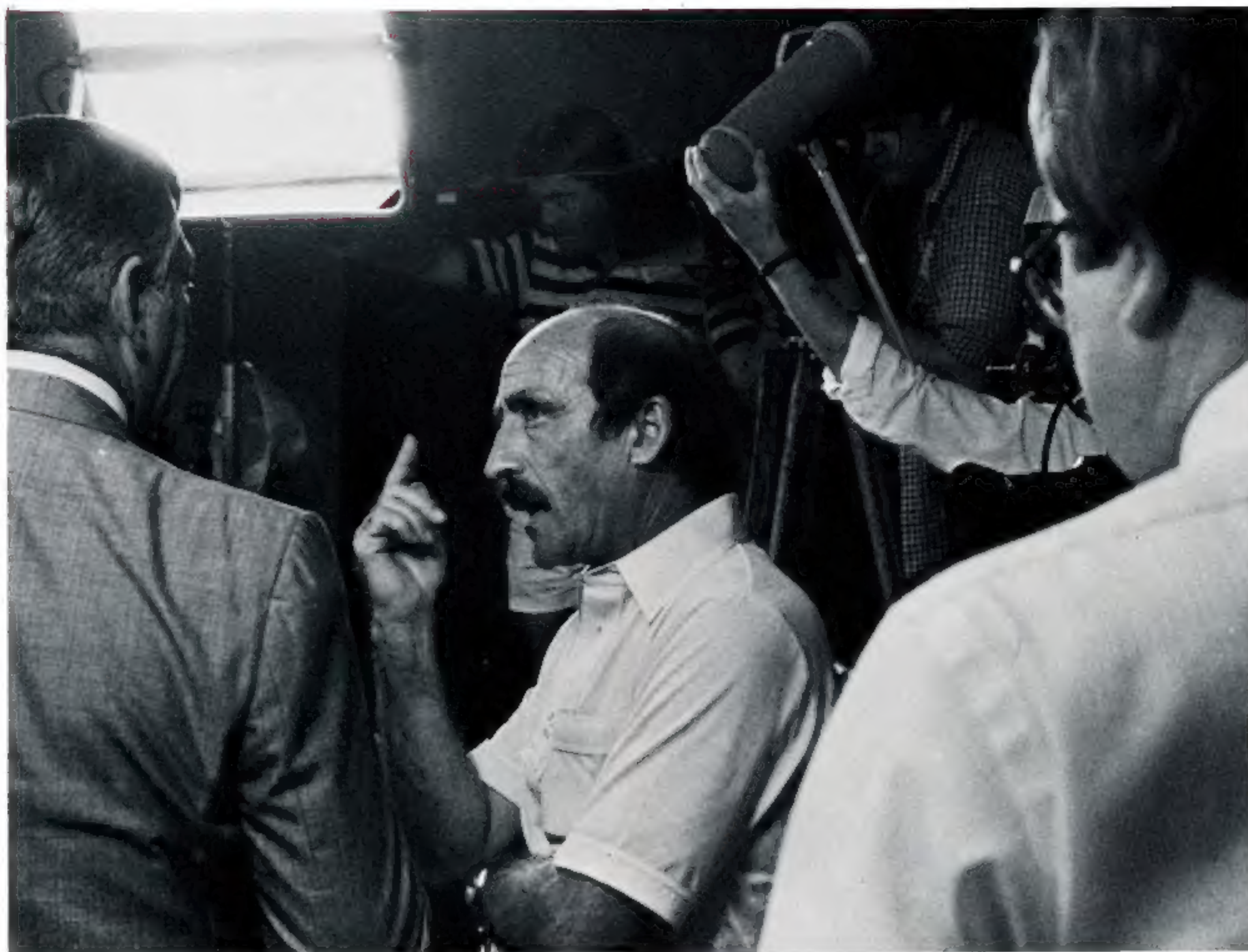
Story by Mike Rodgers

**"I** saw you on TV last night!" Some Gulf States employees heard that remark quite often this fall, as friends and co-workers reacted to seeing them in GSU's latest TV commercials.

Two one-minute commercials were produced in September, one for airing in Louisiana, the other for Texas. Each spot features a group of employees seated around a large conference table discussing programs Gulf States has to benefit customers. Summa Stelly, vice president-Louisiana operations and Charles Glass, vice president-Texas operations, narrate the commercials, which develop the theme "Ask Us How We Can Help."

The employees seated around the conference table are, for the most part, people who have some contact with the public. For all but a few though, this was their first experience in front of a TV camera. Several, like Donna Bush, have small speaking parts. "It was rough trying to be natural when saying memorized lines to the camera," says the Baton Rouge energy auditor, "so I changed a few words to be more comfortable. It was fun and neat seeing all that goes into a commercial." Bush's comments were echoed by Sue Kendall, a consumer affairs coordinator in Beaumont. "I was surprised at how long it took to do a 60-second commercial," she says.

Putting up the set, hanging lights, arranging microphones, rehearsing and shooting the various scenes took almost an eight-hour day for each commercial. The technical crew was hired from a Beaumont television station while the director, Tony



Director Tony Frank (center) talks over an upcoming scene with Summa Stelly (left), vice president of Louisiana operations, while Henry Joyner, administrator-advertising and financial information, looks on.

Frank, is a Hollywood veteran of such well-known TV series as "Policewoman" and "The Dukes of Hazzard." Frank, who is accustomed to directing professional actors and actresses, was equally adept at guiding non-professionals. "He was a patient man who made it an enjoyable experience," says Jay Gonzales, a consumer service representative in Beaumont.

Many of the service programs which benefit GSU customers are ideas that came from employees like those in the TV spots. Several of the GSUers in the new commercials belong to task forces in each division which look for ways to help customers. "Programs like the Convenient Payment Plan, Third Party Notification and Project CARE all came out of task forces," says Henry Joyner, administrator of advertising and financial infor-

mation. "These commercials are an effort to show the public that GSU employees care about them," he adds.



Gary Hinson, KFDM-TV, Beaumont, applies makeup to Henry Green, service foreman in Baton Rouge, before filming begins.

Photo by Robert Adams

Photo by Robert Adams



# Nelson Coal joins GSU Blood Club

Story by T. J. Reyes

Photos by Sheila Soileau

It wasn't quite Halloween when the vampires visited Nelson Coal but employees gave willingly anyway. Vampire was the name jokingly given to each of the medical technicians who staff the Lake Charles Memorial Hospital mobile blood bank. Blood donors at Nelson Coal gave a total of 41 units of blood in their initial membership drive to join the Lake Charles Division employees' Blood Club.

Through their donations of blood Lake Charles Division employees and retirees, along with their immediate families, may make free withdrawals from the blood bank if the need for blood occurs. In addition, a committee composed of employees from all over the division will consider an employee's request for blood for others at the time that blood is needed. Committee members at Nelson Coal are Marilyn Reynolds and Shane Stidham.

The blood club operates like a bank checking account. Credits are given for every unit of blood donated by a GSU employees. When blood is needed, the credits are withdrawn from the club's account.

According to drive coordinator Alan Levine, who is a safety and health representative at Nelson Coal, concerned employees can be credited with the success of the drive. Levine also noted that many shift workers who were not at the plant when the mobile bank visited later donated blood at the hospital. Any Lake Charles Division employee who would like to give blood, may do so in this manner but should specify that the blood is for the GSU Blood Club.



*M.L. Hooper (kneeling) and Dale Babineaux assure Oddie Powell (in chair) donating blood is a simple procedure. Nurse Heidi Harris looks on.*



*Danny Gentry, test technician-2nd class, and Cathy Trevison, medical technician ASCP.*



*Faye Northcutt, donor recruiter, checks the blood pressure and temperature of Brad Stotz, engineer.*

While the procedure for donating blood is a simple one, says Levine, donors must be in good health. After completing a brief medical history card to ensure eligibility to contribute, the donor is given a mini-physical. Medical technicians take each donor's temperature, blood pressure, weight and pulse. The actual process of giving blood takes about five minutes for one

unit, or 500 milliliters of blood. Afterwards, donors are given light refreshments while they rest briefly.

Levine added that in the very first week after the drive at Nelson Coal, there were two separate occasions when the need for blood arose. And the vampires at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital were happy to help.



# Turning rice into energy

Story by Mike Rodgers

Photos by Ken Haynie

**T**he climate of the Gulf States service area makes it an ideal location to grow rice. Naturally this means that many tons of rice hulls are left behind as a useless, expensive by-product. Now, however, these same good-for-nothing hulls are proving to be a new source of electric power generation.

Agrilectric Power Partners Ltd. in Lake Charles, is burning rice hulls in boilers, producing electricity and selling it to GSU. In the past, waste rice hulls from a mill adjacent to Agrilectric were taken to a landfill and dumped at a cost of about one-dollar per ton. Now, Agrilectric uses 250 tons each day to turn its generators. The company sells about 11 megawatts of electricity to GSU, while the rest is used to run the mill.

The project was spurred by a 1978 federal law requiring utilities to buy power from co-

generators and firms producing small amounts of power. There are several forms of co-generation, and one of them involves any procedure that produces power from a source that would usually be considered to have no value.

Malcolm Williams, manager of business development for GSU, sees co-generation projects like this one benefiting both the company and its customers. "It helps to reduce the dependence on natural gas and imported oil as a fuel source," he says, "and it could help level off the future price of electricity." Agrilectric executives praise GSU for its cooperation in getting the project off the ground. That firm will save the expense of transporting rice hulls to landfills and be spared from the dust and disposal regulations required by the Environmental Protection Agency. Further, the rice hull



*Rice ash, stored in this hopper, will be used as insulation material.*

ash left over after burning will be sold for use as an insulation material.

Williams points out, "We can enthusiastically support a project like this because the fuel source — rice hulls — would normally be thrown away. Now those hulls are being used as a productive source of energy."



*Dale Cannon, maintenance superintendent at Agrilectric, holds a cup of the ash that is left after rice hulls are burned to produce energy.*



*A large generator produces the power that is sold back to GSU.*



# GSU, LSU project to shed light on

by Susan Gilley

An attractive, upper-scale, stucco home in Baton Rouge's The Shire subdivision does not look strikingly different from its neighbors.

But many factors **do** set the home apart, insists Dennis Smith, consumer information coordinator. The home was built using passive solar techniques, to create what experts believe will be an extremely energy-efficient dwelling place.

The home will be monitored by GSU from January 1985 through December 1987 to measure how

much energy is saved by the techniques, which include site orientation, insulation, landscaping, building materials and design. In late August, reported Smith, the house was nearing a sale.

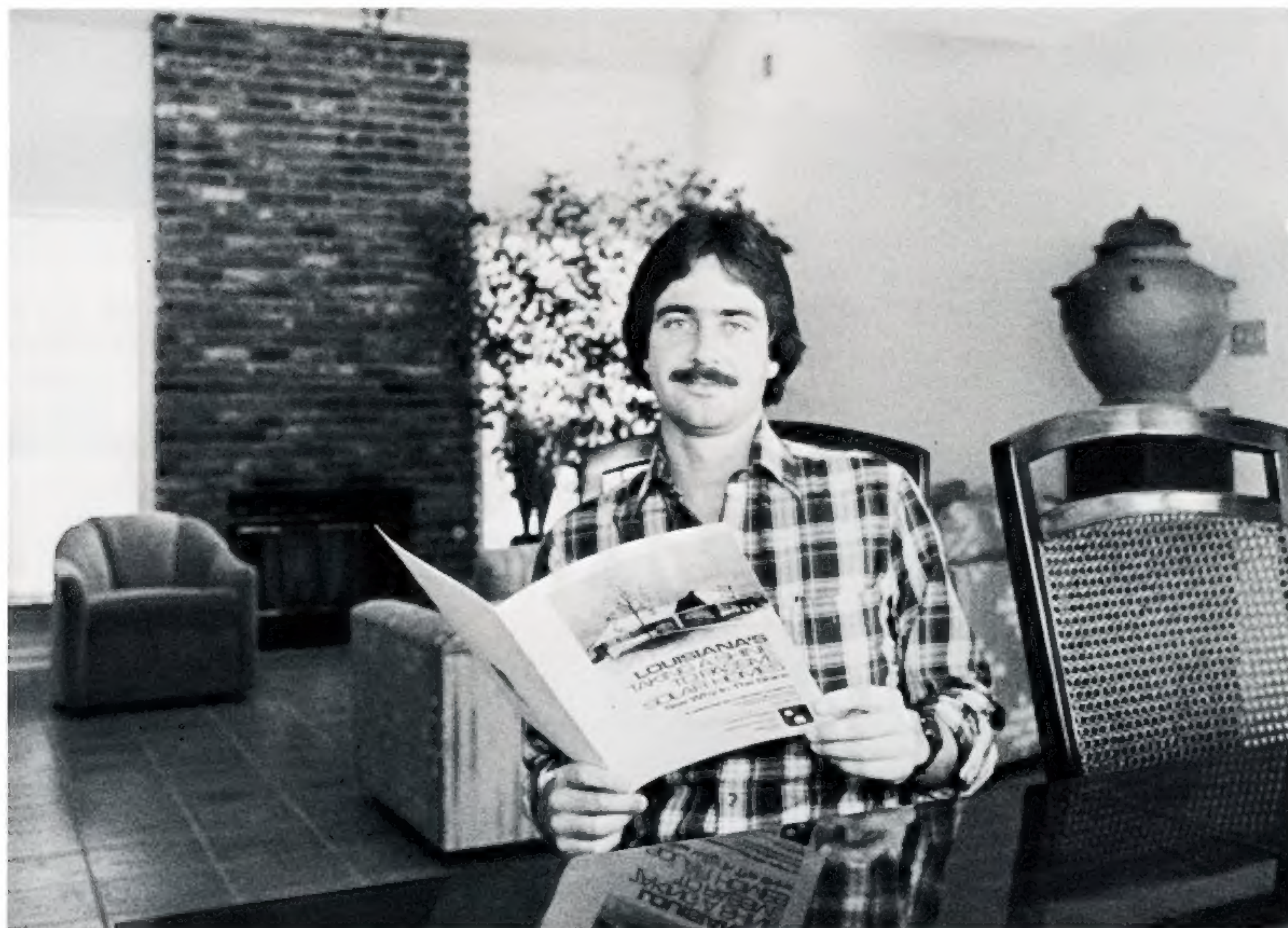
A cooperative effort between GSU and Louisiana State University brought the concept from the drawing board to reality. Gulf States funded the research, while LSU's School of Architecture provided research and consultation.

The home is cooled and heated by an electric heat pump, for

which the efficiency is further increased by running the ducts through conditioned space rather than the attic.

Other highlights of the home's passive solar heating and cooling characteristics include:

- a fireplace for auxiliary heating,
- thermal mass,
- openings oriented for cross-ventilation,
- wing walls to funnel prevailing winds,
- few windows on the east and west sides,



*Dennis Smith says the home does not appear much different from more traditional homes.*



# passive solar homes

- passive ventilation devices,
- wide overhangs and wing walls for solar control,
- site orientation for proper solar exposure,
- tight shell construction for infiltration control,
- high insulation standards (rated at R-22 for the exterior walls and R-30 in the roof system),
- dual-glazed windows,
- ceiling fans to help distribute air,
- radiant barrier.

Landscaping also helps the home make the best use of "natural" energy. Strategically-placed trees and shrubs help direct breezes around the house and to the windows on the south side.

Large deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in cold weather) shade the exposed southern portion in summer and let the sun shine through in the winter. Evergreens on the north side protect the home from winter winds.

Smith explains that a passive

solar home differs from active solar in that additional mechanical energy is not used for fans or pumps.

If the two-year monitoring study shows significant energy savings, then future home buyers may "take a shine" to similar features in their purchases. That trend could pay off in two ways, says Smith.

"Not only would home owners save on their energy bills, but utilities like GSU could be helped by easing the demand for generated power," he explains.



*Windows are recessed to reduce radiant heat on this south-facing view.*



# "Thanks, GSU!"

by T. J. Reyes

Amy Vanderbilt might consider a thank you note for a thank you note slightly overkill. But that was the general, and welcomed, response when GSU inserted a thank you note in April utility bills.

The thank you notes went to GSU customers who have paid their bills on time for at least one year and have not had any amounts in arrears. According to Mildred Tribble, assistant to the vice president of marketing and consumer services, many of the customers who responded to GSU's thanks wrote their notes directly onto the flyer and returned it with their next payment. Most, but not all, of the more than 150 responses were positive and many expressed surprise and delight about the thank you's.

Although not a new idea Tribble adds, "The suggestion to thank customers for prompt payment of bills and for contributions to Project CARE had been suggested previously by members of both the Consumer Advisory Panels and the Monitoring Councils for Project CARE."

Here are a few of those letters to GSU.

\* \* \*

How nice of you for the note of appreciation. I have never complained about paying my electric bill. Electricity does so many jobs for us. — Mid-County, Port Arthur Division

\* \* \*

We also thank you for good service from Denham Springs, La. office. They are tops. — Denham Springs, Louisiana

\* \* \*

Thank You.

I have been paying all my bills promptly for over 40 years and this is my first "Thank You" note! — Calvert, Texas

*"I have never complained about paying my electric bill. Electricity does so many jobs for us."*

\* \* \*

First off, I want to thank you kindly for the very nice, thank you card you sent me, that's why I'm proud to put in my few words.

The service provided by GSU in my area, for myself and others is more than just good, it's perfect. I hear this said many times, and for my own opinion that's great.

I have been in this area with GSU for the past 15 years, so I can say with pride, the things I appreciate so much. First the very wonderful GSU people in my area are the best; always pleasant to talk with, business or otherwise. Also the very low rates we have been enjoying so far, and with the best service anywhere what else can I say but thanks a million; and I hope you can arrange to get a rate adjustment soon. So for many years to come I look forward to being served by the Best for Less: Gulf States Utilities Company.

P.S. I also appreciate the informative material you sent out; its very useful.

P.S. Please excuse my poor handwriting. I can only try. — Lafayette, Louisiana

\* \* \*

Thank you for the compliment. One of the ways my family has stayed happy is knowing we have a good credit rating. — Port Arthur, Texas

*"I am 65 and retired 6'11" and would like a nice lady. Do you have one?"*

\* \* \*

And thank you for the nice thank you note! I take pride in having a good credit record but it is seldom anyone says "Thanks." This was a clever idea and I do appreciate it. — Port Allen, Louisiana

\* \* \*

It sure beats cutting stove wood! — Baton Rouge, Louisiana



\* \* \*

To the fine staff at Gulf States Utilities Company and their services:

I want to tell you I love the "Thank you" card in my monthly statement notice. Hear?

I have been in Baton Rouge for over 30 years and in my present home here for nearly 21 years and Gulf States Utilities has been very nice to me.

My wife deserted me over a year ago and has since then filed for final separation and divorce. I am 65 and retired, in good health, 6'1" and would like to meet some nice lady, see. Do you know of anyone?

Thanks for your help and in sharing. — Baton Rouge, Louisiana

*"I am retired, in good health, I would like to meet some nice lady, see. Do you know of anyone?"*

\* \* \*

And thank you, too. I want you to know that I appreciate the excellent service that I receive from you. Best wishes for your continuing success and prosperity. — Winnie, Texas

*"It sure beats cutting stove wood!"*

\* \* \*

We like your service also. We like having you with us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year! — Port Arthur, Texas

*"We like having you with us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."*

\* \* \*

Thank you for this nice card. Times are rough and we really try hard to take care of our responsibilities promptly. It's nice to know somebody takes time and extra expense to say thanks. This is the first time any of our creditors have thanked us for paying what we owe. You made my day! — Conroe, Texas

\* \* \*

Dear Folks,

I appreciate your "Thank you" more than you realize. It makes an old lady of 76 feel good to receive a kind word. God bless all of you and may River Bend be a great success and help to all. — Baton Rouge, Louisiana

\* \* \*

Notes like this and GSU participation in Project CARE make a real difference to us as customers! — Baton Rouge, Louisiana

\* \* \*

Thank you, too! This card is a delightful personal touch. My home has double insulation and double windows. This helps a great deal in energy-savings costs and my budget. I think we're both pleased! — Denham Springs, Louisiana

\* \* \*

I appreciate GSU, and all utility companies. I am retired from Southwestern Bell. They taught us (to be) on time with our work. Our payday's never late. — Silsbee, Texas

\* \* \*

Yours was the first "thank you" note I have ever received for paying my bill on time! And I have lived in this same house for 59 years! Also, I sent my \$24 refund check to Project CARE. I hope it does someone good.

I think I will frame the thank you note and hang it on the wall! Thank you, too.

\* \* \*





## Baby born Christmas Day

Leigh Anne Fisher was born Dec. 25, 1983 to Ernie and Dru Fisher. Leigh Anne weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 21½ inches at birth. She is the couple's first child.

Proud papa Ernie is employed at the Beaumont Service Center in the Survey Department.



## Perkins wins at Baby Olympics

Kimberly N. Perkins won five medals at the Baby Olympics held Sept. 8 at Parkdale Mall in Beaumont. She won one gold and

three silver medals in individual events. Her fifth medal was the overall gold medal for her age group which was awarded to her for winning a medal in every event in which she took part.

Kimberly, the 3-year-old granddaughter of Shirley Barnes, attends the West Tabernacle Day Care Nursery. Her grandmother is a clerk in the Beaumont River Bend Nuclear Group.



## Grandson celebrates first birthday

Randy Steve Koles, grandson of John Koles, will be one year old on Nov. 12. The child is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Koles of Livingston, Louisiana.

According to his grandfather, who also lives in Livingston, the child weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 21½ inches at birth.

## Baby born to GSU family

Brittini Michelle Canizaro made her appearance June 10, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 19 inches. She is the daughter of two GSU employees who work in Beaumont. Her mother, Julie, is an accounting clerk in the River Bend Nuclear Group while her dad, Dennis, is a civil engineer in Design Engineering.



*Brittini Canizaro*

## Kellye Green places at state finals

Kellye Nicole Green, daughter of Gary and Judy Green, won second alternate to the overall winner in the state finals of the Cinderella Scholarship Pageant. Kellye, one of 60 girls in her age group, was judged in four categories — close-up appraisal, sportswear, party dress and on-stage interview. This win qualifies Kellye to compete in the International Finals to be held in Miami, Florida.

Her father is a division substation operator in Baton Rouge.



*Kellye Green*

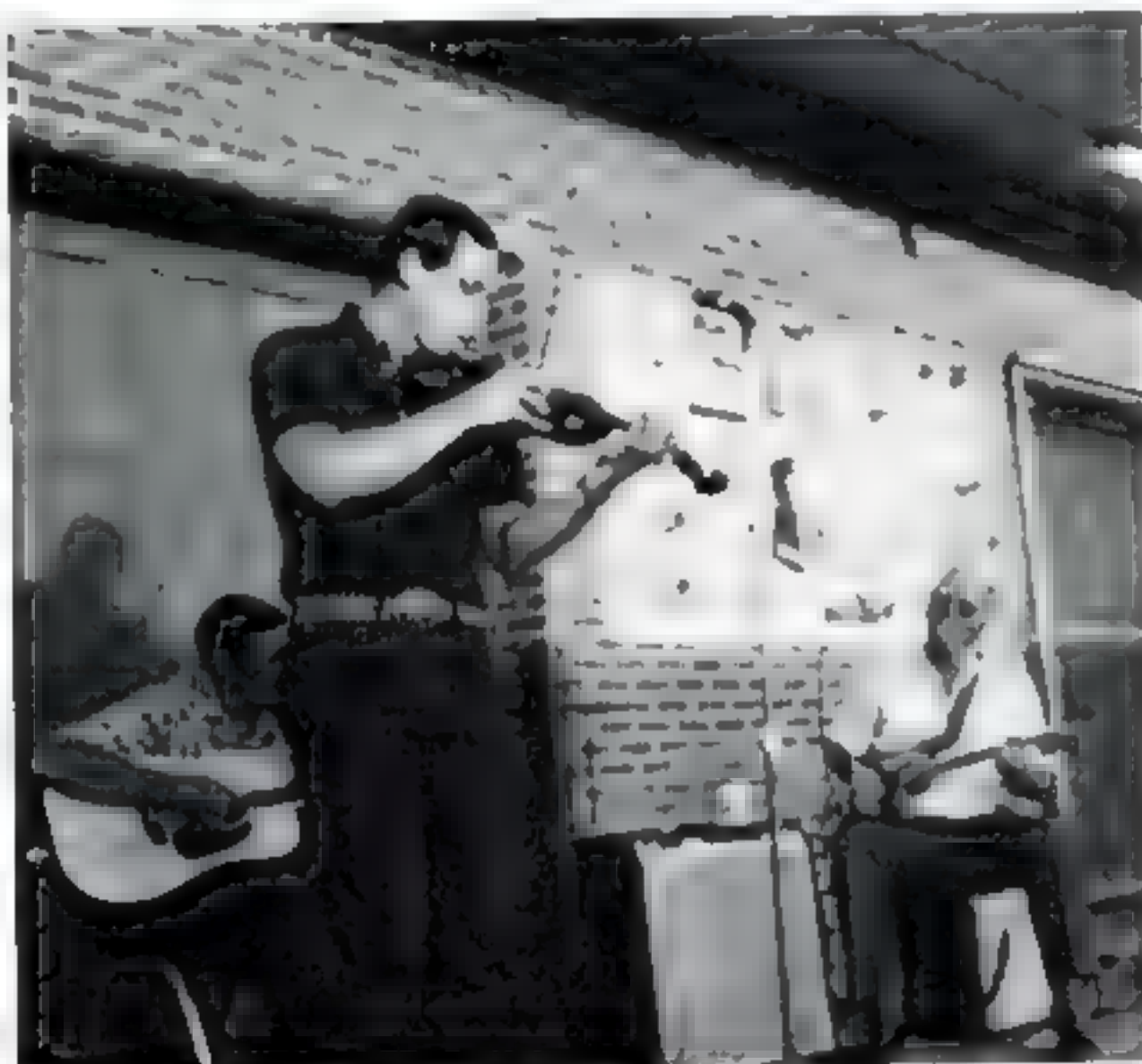




## Co-op named to all-star team

Troy Terrell, a co-op electrical engineer with GSU, was among the top 25 football players selected for the Port Arthur Thomas Jefferson Silver Anniversary All-Star Team (1960-1984). Troy was an all-state defensive lineman with the 1980 Class 5A state finalist Yellow Jackets.

Troy, who has completed his fourth term as a co-op in GSU's Port Arthur Division, is attending Lamar University during the fall semester. Next spring, he will be working at Edison Plaza for his fifth and final co-op term. He will graduate from Lamar in December 1985.



*Terry Huval plays fiddle to the guitars of Joe Olivier (plaid shirt) and Virgil Fuselier.*

## Lafayette holds crawfish boil

Employees in Lafayette enjoyed 1,200 pounds of crawfish

last May at their annual crawfish supper. Entertainment for the event was provided by three Gulf States employees. The trio, consisting of two guitars and a fiddle, featured the musical talents of Terry Huval, assistant substation supervisor; Joe Olivier, meterman-1st class; and Virgil Fuselier, supervisor of consumer services.



*Laurie (left) and Aimee Dewey and their Cabbage Patch dolls.*

## Dewey becomes instant grandpa

Pat Dewey may be the youngest grandfather in GSU's Western Division with the recent additions to his family. Each of his daughters, Laurie, 9, and Aimee, 6, adopted Cabbage Patch dolls, making Dewey a grandfather.

The still youthful-looking Dewey, an employee relations supervisor in Conroe, also has one son, 3-year-old Michael.

## McKenzie elected IMC president

Sammie McKenzie, nuclear training coordinator at River Bend, was elected president of Division VI of the International Management Council (IMC). Division VI covers the western half of the United States.

The IMC chapters throughout the country provide for continued growth of management employees in the area of supervisory skills.



*Sammie McKenzie*

GSU is one of IMC's sponsoring companies in Baton Rouge. Jim Moss, division vice president-Baton Rouge, serves on the top management advisory committee for the Baton Rouge chapter.



*Benjamin Alexander DuBose*

## DuBose family announces Benjamin

Little Benjamin Alexander DuBose was born to the Kent and Gayla DuBose family June 18, 1984. Benjamin, whose father is a supervisor in the credit and collection department in Beaumont, weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces.





## Baby joins Gonzales family

William Joseph was born on Oct. 1 to Juan Jose (Jay) and Avalee Gonzales at 12:27 a.m. The baby weighed 7 pounds and measured 19½ inches at birth.

His daddy works in Marketing and Consumer Services in the Liberty-Pearl Building as a consumer services representative.



## Miles graduates from LSU

Earl Miles Jr., son of Earl and Rita Miles, graduated cum laude from Louisiana State University last May. The younger Miles completed his studies at L.S.U. with an overall grade point average between 3.70 and 3.79 to qualify for the honor.

The elder Miles is a meter reader in Denham Springs and has been employed at GSU for 27 years.



## Russells add second daughter

Margaret Anita Russell was born on Aug. 8 in a birthing room in Covington, Louisiana. She is the daughter of Greg and Beverly Russell. Megan, as the child is called, weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20½ inches at birth.

The couple has one other daughter, 20-month old Sarah. Father Greg is a test technician-1st class at Willow Glen and is a *Plain Talks* correspondent.



## Darvilles welcome second daughter

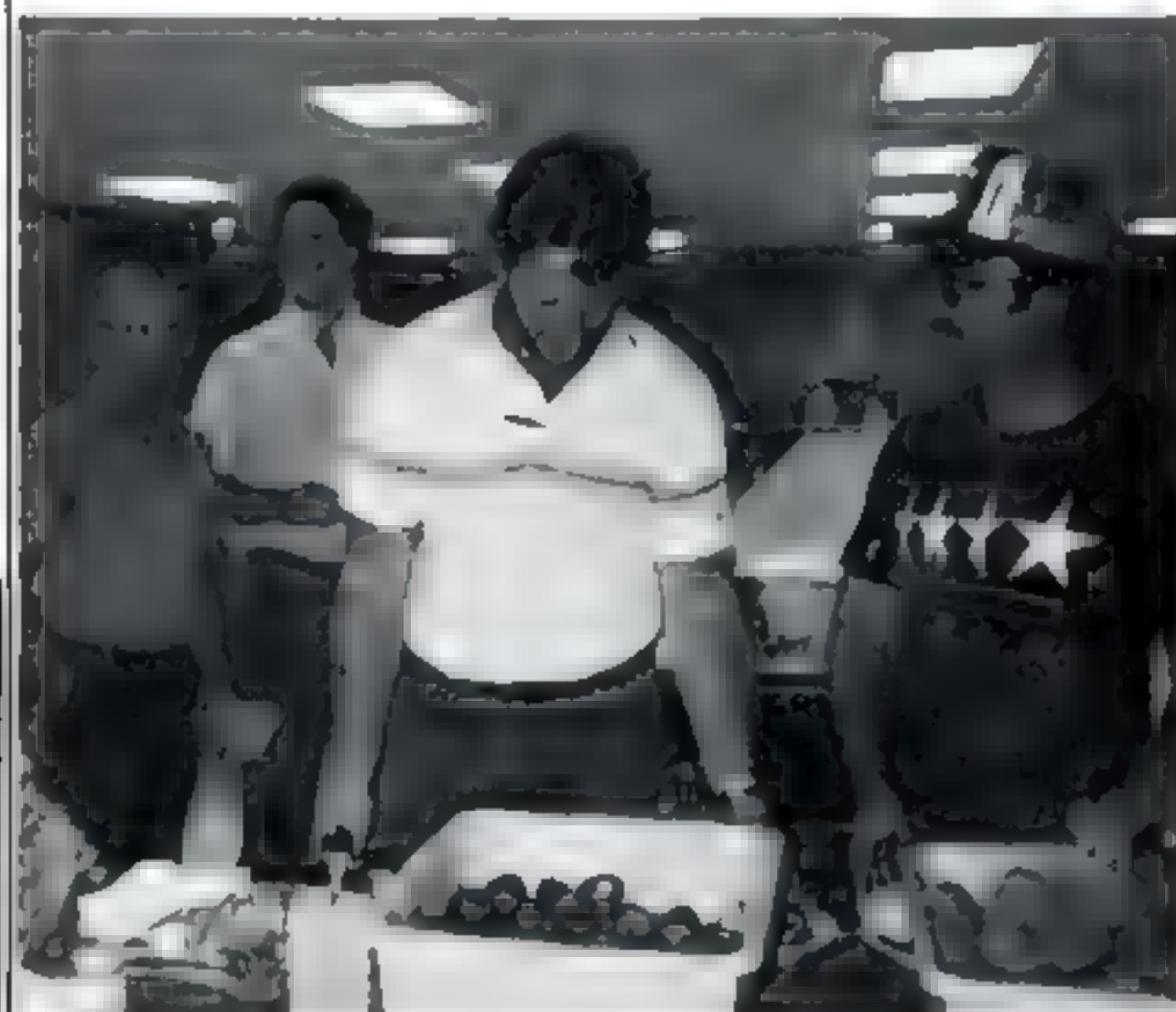
Ashley Monique Darville was born on June 20 to Carol and Michael Darville. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 20½ inches. Ashley has one sister, Michela Dionysia. Their mother is a clerk in the Gonzales office.



## Snow surprised by balloon bouquet

Raymond Snow, received a surprise balloon bouquet from a friend. The balloons marked Snow's 42nd birthday.

Snow is a utility foreman in the Conroe Substation department. He has been with GSU for over 20 years.



Sabine Station employees enjoy shrimp supper.

## Supper honors Sabine Station

Sabine Station employees were special guests at a shrimp supper held Aug. 3. After the first six months of 1984, the power plant was in first place in the Texas division of the President's Safety Award program. The supper was held in the assembly hall at Sabine Station.



## Safety Fair and Family Fun Day

# Division holds annual celebration

by T. J. Reyes

Where can you find helicopters, breakdancers, cake contests and kids? All of these and more were the attractions at the Port Arthur Division's annual Safety Fair and Family Fun Day held Sept. 9 at the Brad Club in Nederland.

More than 450 employees and their family members attended the day-long event that was coordinated by R.L. Grubbs and Mike Case, safety and health representatives. They note that among the special attractions of the day was a demonstration given by the high-rise rescue squad who helped train a similar group at Sabine Station. Also on display for close-up viewing were the Life Flight IV helicopter and an ambulance manned by emergency technicians.

One colorful attraction was the six-member breakdance team, the Floor Rockers, who performed during the fair. Port Arthur

storeroom assistant Robert Scott is a member of the group.

In addition to door prizes, awards were given in a cake contest. According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Barbara Broussard, the best-tasting cake was baked by Phyllis Thomas, a departmental clerk at Sabine Station. Bonnie Prince, wife of Ronnie Prince, had the best-decorated cake. Her husband is a lineman—1st class in Port Arthur.

Along with bucket truck rides, a clown, volleyball games and a dunking booth, participants were treated to barbecue sandwiches, sodas, cotton candy and a sample of those delicious cakes.

*Upper right: Phyllis Thomas displays her prize for baking the best-tasting cake.*

*Right: Proud papa Mike Barker and twins, Jennifer Lee (left) and Jeffery Austin.*



*Ron McKenzie goes into the water of the dunking booth.*



*Serving up barbecue sandwiches are: (from left) Susie Fortenberry, Rufus Mier and Leonard Gaspard.*



# ON THE MOVE

## A

**Alleman, Barry J.**, Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.

**Allen, Jeffery P.**, Port Allen, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Andrepoint, Joseph C.**, Port Arthur, to shop and field tester, Electric T&D.

## B

**Babin, Jerry M.**, Willow Glen, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Babineaux, Dale W.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Beach, Brian A.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Beshears, Eric P.**, River Bend, to head fireman, Plant Production.

**Blanchard, Mark G.**, Louisiana Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Bordeman, Michael E.**, Beaumont, to helper-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Borel, Dwayne L.**, Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Bossell, Stephen W.**, River Bend, to instrument/control technician-1st class/nuclear, Plant Production.

**Bourgeois, Kathy L.**, Orange, to senior district service representative, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Bovard, Ronald L.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Boyer, Brian E.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Braud, Troy D.**, Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Brignac, Michael W.**, Beaumont, to turbine operator, Plant Production.

**Broussard, Randall P.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Buck, Patricia B.**, Lafayette, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

**Buller, Matthew P.**, River Bend, to master instrument/control technician/nuclear, Plant Production.

## C

**Carter, Joe T. Jr.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Cobb, Keith L.**, Vidor, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Collett, Gary R.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Collier, Michael D.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Comeaux, Mason L.**, Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.

**Copeland, William C. Jr.**, Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Coxe, Jeffrey A.**, River Bend, to switchboard operator, Plant Production.

**Cozad, Frederick D.**, Port Arthur, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Creel, Michael O.**, Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

## D

**Derousselle, Leon**, Lafayette, to utility worker II, Electric T&D.

**Dillon, Tracy S.**, New Caney, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Dodge, Ray S.**, Baton Rouge, to corrosion technician-1st class, Gas Department.

**Dugger, William E. III**, Conroe, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Dumesnil, Randy**, Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

**Dutsch, Kenneth W.**, Louisiana Station, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

## E

**English, Clifton O.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Eppinette, Michael D.**, Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## F

**Forward, Rudolph W.**, Orange, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Frederick, James W. Jr.**, Lafayette, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

## G

**Galassi, Frank G.**, Huntsville, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Gammage, Frank W.**, Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Gatlin, Roger D.**, Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

**Gauthreaux, Kevin N.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Gibbons, Carl D. Jr.**, Beaumont, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Gross, Sherbert A.**, Denham Springs, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Guillory, Phillip**, Nelson Coal, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Guillory, Robert E.**, Beaumont, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Guins, Alan P.**, Nelson Coal, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

## H

**Hartner, Dennis M.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Plant Production.

**Heyduck, John C.**, Port Arthur, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Hignett, James K.**, Silsbee, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Hoffpauir, Melvin J.**, Lafayette, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Holmes, Michael R.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Hooper, Monroe L.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

## J

**James, Eric M.**, Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Jasper, Thomas E. Jr.**, Silsbee, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Jimnez, David**, Beaumont, to engineering helper, Electric T&D.

## K

**Keeney, Jeffrey L.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Kemp, Gregory D.**, Silsbee, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## L

**LaGrange, Glenn J.**, Lafayette, to utility man, Electric T&D.

**Landry, Woodrow A.**, Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Lane, Walter W.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Leggett, Travis L.**, Zachary, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Lewis, Larry E.**, Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Linder, John H.**, Louisiana Station, to master test technician, Plant Production.

## M

**Mahoney, Kutay O.**, Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**McCauley, Norman G.**, Daisetta, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**McKay, Kevin T.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Moore, James D. Jr.**, Beaumont, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Moore, Joseph E.**, Port Arthur, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Moore, Steven L.**, Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Morgan, Elizabeth**, Louisiana Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Morgan, Marvin**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

## N

**Narcisse, Paul J.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

## O

**O'Neill, Michael J. Jr.**, Beaumont, to utility worker II, Building Services.

## P

**Pickart, Joseph R.**, Winnie, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Placker, Tina D.**, New Caney, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Powell, Harvey L.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Puls, Mark E.**, Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## R

**Rachal, Michael D.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Rayburn, Marshall W. Jr.**, Beaumont, to turbine operator, Plant Production.

**Reed, Leonard R.**, Conroe, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Reeves, Annette M.**, Lake Charles, to energy auditor, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Retherford, Charles M.**, Port Arthur, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Reynolds, John C.**, Nelson Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Rich, Gary E. Jr.**, Dayton, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Richardson, Charles S.**, Jennings, to district service representative, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Riggs, Richard D.**, Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Robillard, Victoria L.**, Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Robinson, Deborah P.**, Beaumont, to turbine operator, Plant Production.

**Roccaforte, Marie F.**, Mid County, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

## S

**Saksa, Albert G. Jr.**, Willow Glen, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Schaffield, Charles M.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.



# SERVICE AWARDS

## 30 years



**Thomas R. Clayton**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge



**James L. Davis**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Robert J. Didier**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge

## 20 years



**William T. Crowe III**  
Engr. & Tech. Servs.  
Beaumont

## 10 years



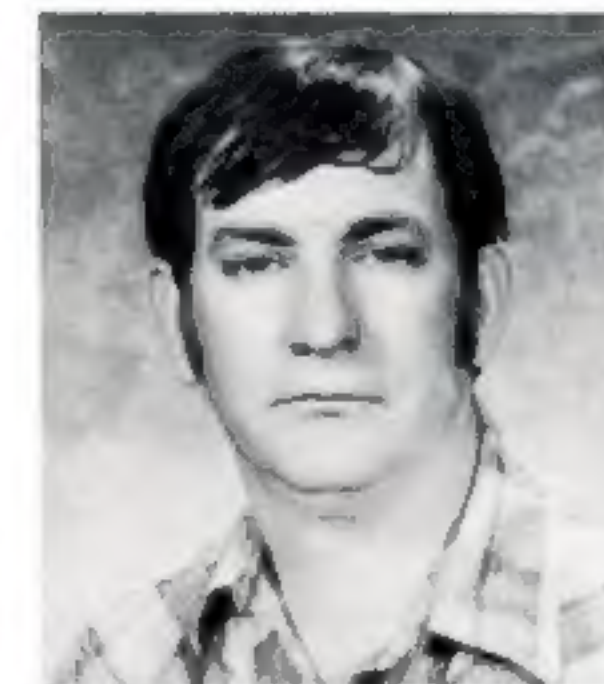
**Barbara Broussard**  
Div. Mktg. & Cons.  
Servs.  
Port Arthur



**Carroll A. Davis**  
Div. Acctg.  
Cleveland



**Tamara A. James**  
Div. Acctg.  
Baton Rouge



**Glenn A. Ray**  
Plant Production  
Sabine Station

### *On the Move continued from last page*

**Schluter Samuel O.**, Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.

**Shannon, Frank L.**, Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

**Smith, Jacqueline T.**, Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services.

**Soileau, Joseph B., Jr.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, Plant Production.

**Spell, William H. Jr.**, River Bend, to radiation protection-1st class, Plant Production.

**Stephenson, Chris E.**, Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Stevens, Mary E.**, Beaumont, to turbine operator, Plant Production.

**Stricklin, Jeffery W.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

### T

**Talbot, Douglas R.**, River Bend, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

**Taylor, Willie A.**, Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Thomas, Donnie L.**, Huntsville, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Thomas, Monica L.**, Lake Charles, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Thornhill, William D.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Tyler, Robert E., Jr.**, Nelson Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

### V

**Villery, Aristotle**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

### W

**Walker, Dent B. Jr.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Walker, Mary G.**, Conroe, to customer service representative, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

**Welch, James R.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Wilkomm, Gregory M.**, Conroe, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Woodall, Carl D.**, Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.





From left, Jimmie Smith, retiree Michael Page and Victor Bradley.

## Page retires from Neches Station

Michael Page, who retired Oct. 1 from Neches Station, was given a retirement party honoring his 33 years with Gulf States. Page, who was a switchboard operator, was presented with a plaque from the System Safety group for working accident free during those years.

Co-workers feted Page with gifts and a retirement party on Sept. 28, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Laurie Tenner.



David Saale, lineman-1st class, (left) presents retiree Darryl Clement with a new rod and reel.

## Clement retires with 38 years

Friends and co-workers of Darryl G. Clement in Port Allen honored him with a retirement

party on Aug. 27. Clement, who was a utility foreman when he retired, was presented with a rod and reel.

He has worked for Gulf States for over 38 years.



## Hebert hooks 27-pound drum

L. P. (Sonny) Hebert, who retired from Gulf States Feb. 1, caught a 27-pound drum fish last August. Hebert, a 37-year veteran of GSU, is now the caretaker of the Sabine-Port Arthur Recreation Club (SPARC).

## Sideliners tour pilgrimage homes

The Beaumont Sideliners hit the road again with a five-day trip to Natchez, Mississippi during September. The retiree group toured a number of the Natchez Pilgrimage Houses which date from the early 1800s.

An added attraction of the trip was a stopover made in St. Francisville, Louisiana. While there, the retirees toured the River Bend nuclear plant site.

According to Sideliners Myrtle and Henry Zahn, the entire group enjoyed "the opportunity to see much of the early history of Natchez." They added that as on any of the Sideliners' trips, the group received wonderful attention wherever they visited.



Retiree Ben F. Exner (left) and Fred Eubanks, operating supervisor, at Exner's retirement party.

## Exner retires in Baton Rouge

Ben F. Exner was guest of honor at a retirement party in Baton Rouge on Aug. 30. Exner, who was a chief construction inspector at the time of his retirement, has worked for GSU since 1941.

He was presented with a plaque by the System Safety group for 43 years of accident-free work.

## Deaths listed:

*Plain Talks* has received word of the following deaths:

**Price A. Adams**, 78, formerly of Baton Rouge died on Sept. 4. He retired in 1971 as a serviceman in the Gas Department with over 33 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Selma C. Adams of Kentwood, Louisiana.

**Keen Franklin**, 85, died on Sept. 7. His survivors include his wife, Jewel S. Franklin of Rockdale, Texas. Prior to his retirement from GSU in 1963, he was a district serviceman-1st class in the Trinity office. He worked at Gulf States for over 26 years.

**James C. West Jr.**, 53, of Groveton died Sept. 14. He is survived by his wife, Ada Mae West of Groveton. At the time of his retirement earlier this year, he was a district serviceman-1st class in the Groveton office. He was a 28-year veteran of GSU.



# Marker placed at substation

Story and photos by T. J. Reyes

The blast of the whistle in the Travis Street Substation yard could be heard for 26 miles around. The whistle, which once signaled the availability of electrical service as well as fire alarms for the entire region, was blown on Sept. 27 to signal the unveiling of a Texas State Historical marker placed in front of the structure. Now used as the Edison Plaza Museum, the old substation building was completed by GSU in 1929 to expand service to 22 additional communities in southeast Texas.

The unveiling had two very special guests — GSU retirees Joseph F. Delage, who unveiled the marker, and John P. French, who read its inscription to those present for the ceremony. Both men once worked in the building during its first days as a substation, a part of which is still used today for this purpose.

Mrs. William B. Hataway, chairman of the Jefferson County Historical Committee, served as mistress of ceremonies for the event. The main address was given by Dr. Andrew J. Johnson, executive associate to the president of Lamar University. Dr. Johnson spoke of what Beaumont was like when the early GSU substation provided its service to the region.

Museum curator Joe DeJean noted that in addition to the historical marker, the museum now sports a new banner, to herald special occasions. The banner, designed by DeJean and



*GSU retirees Joseph F. Delage and John P. French pose with the new Texas State Historical Marker placed in front of the Edison Plaza Museum.*

Ken Haynie, was executed by Anita Murphy and Brian Sweat. It features multiple profiles of Thomas Edison looking forward and backward. The design, like the museum, symbolizes the invaluable contributions made by Edison's inventions in the past while signifying the hope for a more prosperous tomorrow.

DeJean notes that the renovation of the substation building for use as the Edison Plaza Museum is "a graphic example of effective adaptive use of an older structure." He adds that all GSU employees can be proud of both the historical marker and the museum.



*CEO Dr. Paul Murrill spoke briefly during the unveiling ceremonies.*



Address Correction  
Requested  
**PLAIN TALKS**  
P. O. Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Bulk Rate  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Beaumont, Texas  
Permit No. 11



**1-800-231-3080**  
**Tape #403**

**Call**  
**energy**  
**talks**  
1 2 3  
ABC DEF  
WXYZ  
9  
\* 0 #

**GULF STATES**  
**UTILITIES CO.**  
Energy is everybody's business.